

REMARKS

Rejected claims 10-14 and 20 have been canceled, and new claim 27 has been added.

Accordingly, claims 15-19 and 21-27 are now in the application.

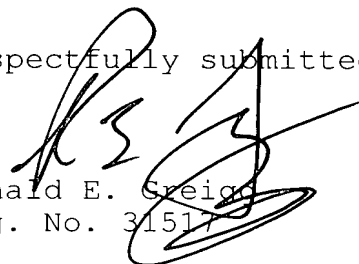
By changes to claims 18 and 25, the 35 USC 112 rejections should now be overcome.

Claim 22 has been amended to revise the ranges set forth for valine and proline to be the same as set forth in allowed claim 15. Accordingly claim 22 should still be allowable.

Claim 27 has been added. New claim 27 depends on allowable claim 22, and further limits the claimed invention to being the product of the process recited in claim 22.

Accordingly, claims 15-19 and 21-27 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald E. Greigg  
Reg. No. 31517

February 27, 2002

Unit One, Station Square  
1423 Powhatan Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Telephone: 703-838-5500  
Facsimile: 703-838-5554

REG/SLS

Baba et al.  
09/673,937

Appendix, claims 18, 22, and 25, with underlining and brackets to show the changes which have been made by this amendment:

18. (New) The method of stabilizing the enzyme according to claim 17, wherein the concentration of said albumin is within a **[the]** range of from 0.5 to 15 w/v%.

22. (New) A method for stabilizing an aspartate aminotransferase in a medium selected from the group consisting of a serum and a buffer, comprising adding to said medium at least one stabilizer selected from the group consisting of valine in an amount of from about 5-20 **[10-20]** mmol./l and proline in an amount of from about 10-500 **[200-500]** mmol./l.

25. (New) The method of stabilizing the enzyme according to claim 24, wherein the concentration of said albumin is within a **[the]** range of from 0.5 to 15 w/v%.